

DOWN
ANCIENT
PATHS™

EPIC TURKISH MOMENTS IN WORLD HISTORY

*Noah, Abraham, the Hittites, the First Century Christians,
the Syriac Christians, the Urartians, the Armenians
and Ataturk*

September 15 - October 2, 2025

Tour Host:

Charles Nienkirchen, Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus
Ambrose University*

organized by

TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —



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Ani, Kars



Gobekli Tepe

Tour Itinerary:

Sept 15 Mon Depart - Fly Istanbul

Sept 16 Tue Arrive Istanbul Airport

Our representative will meet you before immigration, customs and baggage claim, with a "DAP -TUTKU" sign. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (D)

Sept 17 Wed Istanbul

Full day Istanbul tour; Start at Galata tower to enjoy the view. Visit the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, Hagia Sophia, built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the world's greatest architectural marvels. Visit underground Cistern and grand bazaar if time permits -then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum End the day with the spice bazaar and late afternoon Bosphorus Boat Tour. Dinner and Overnight (B,D)

Sept 18 Thu Fly Kars - Ani - Kars

Early flight to Kars **TK2716 8:45-10:40**. Travel to Ani. A ruined and uninhabited medieval city-site situated in the Turkish province of Kars, beside the border with Armenia Visit churches ruins. It was once the capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom. Discover the great Armenian architecture. Dinner and overnight in Kars (B,D)

Sept 19 Fri Kars-Noah's National Park - Ishak Pasa Palace - Doğubeyazit

Drive and visit the natural rock formation and Noah's Ark National Park in Durupinar site and Arzap Drogue Stones. We are visiting the Ishak Pasha Palace, one of the UNESCO World Heritage candidates. Ishak Pasha Palace was built in 1784 by Çıldıroğulları II. It was built during the reign of Ishak Pasha and is considered to be the only palace structure of Ottoman architecture that has survived to the present day in Anatolia. The palace has 366 rooms with its mosque, divan room, oven, kitchen, and hamams. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Sept 20 Sat Dogubeyazit - Van

Continue to Van and after seeing the Van Castle, Urartian King Tombs, and Urartian ruins with a panoramic Van city tour and watching the insatiable beauty of Van Lake, we are making a pleasant boat trip to Akdamar. We visit the Akdamar Church, which is located on Akdamar Island and is famous for its stonework, and then we take a tour of the island. Dinner and overnight (B,D)

Sept 21 Sun Van - Ilisu Dam - Mardin

Early check out and drive to Ilisu Dam, a concrete-face rock-fill dam on the Tigris near the village of Ilisu and along the border of Mardin and Şırnak Provinces in Turkey. It is one of the 22 dams of the Southeastern Anatolia Project and its purpose is hydroelectric power production, flood control and water storage. Continue to Mardin for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Sept 22 Mon Mardin

After breakfast visit of the Deyrulzafaran monastery, an Aramean Orthodox monastery still in use. Visit the Dara Ancient City and the St. Gabriel Monastery. Dinner and overnight in Mardin. (B,D)

Sept 23 Tue Harran - Gobekli Tepe - Karahantepe - Sanliurfa

Drive to Harran- The place of Abraham, Laban, Jacob, Leah and Rachel (Gen 28:10-.) Visit Gobekli Tepe, the oldest temple of the world and then visit KarhanTepe which is thought to be even older. Drive to Sanliurfa and visit the Well of Job. Dinner and overnight in Sanliurfa. (B,D).

Sept 24 Wed Kahta - Cenderes - Perre - Mount Nemrut - Adiyaman

After breakfast drive to Kahta to see the huge heads of gods (Apollo, Zeus, Hercules) and goddess (Tyke=Fortuna) built by Antiochus I, King of the Commagene Kingdom in the 1st century, and the man made hill, on top of the 2000 meters high mountain. Visit the late Roman Cenderes bridge. Visit the Ancient city of Perre and exciting Graves. Dinner and overnight in around Adiyaman (B,D)



Cappadocia

Sept 25 Thu Carchemish - Zeugma Museum - Gaziantep

After breakfast drive to Carchemish (2 Chron 35:20; Isa 10:9; Jer 46:2)—a major east-west crossing point of the Euphrates and which is mentioned numerous times in the ancient texts. We will then visit the site of Zeugma—on the Euphrates River. We drive to the new Zeugma Mosaic Museum in Gaziantep where the extraordinary finds from Roman Zeugma on the Euphrates are on display Overnight in Gaziantep (B,D)

Sept 26 Fri Antioch

Today we will explore Antioch on the Orontes—the third or fourth largest city in the Roman world and the place where Jesus Followers were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). During the day we visit the hippodrome, and two world-class museums—the New Antioch Archaeology Museum that houses one of the richest collections of mosaics in the world (if open), and the mosaics at the Museum Hotel. In addition we will visit the grotto Church of St. Peter. Overnight Hotel (B,D)

Sept 27 Sat Antioch - Adana - Tarsus

Drive to Adana. After visiting the Adana Archaeology Museum and the Roman Bridge, we continue to drive south through the strategic Cilician Gates to visit Tarsus, the city of Paul. Visit the archaeological excavations, St. Paul’s well, the Gate of Cleopatra, and the massive Donuktas (a Roman Temple). Overnight in nearby Adana. (B,D)

Sept 28 Sun Cappadocia

Drive to Cappadocia. Stop and visit the underground city of Kaymakli, an underground city which was an early Christian center that extended down in the earth for at least eight floors and housed several thousand people in the eighth and ninth centuries. Visit Goreme Open Air Museum with the rock Churches. Optional Whirling Dervishes Show in the evening. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Sept 29 Mon Full day Cappadocia

Early morning optional balloon ride. After breakfast, we will drive through the Zelve Valley. We will continue to Uçhisar, another of these early Christian communities. Visit Avanos pottery Village and return to Hotel for dinner and Overnight in Cappadocia. (B,D)

Sept 30 Tue Hatusha - Ankara

Drive to visit Hattusha, the capital city of Hittite Empire. Overnight in Ankara. (B,D)

Oct 1 Wed Ankara

After breakfast enjoy a full day tour in Ankara. Our journey begins with a visit to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. After stopping to see the Roman remains of the important Temple of Augustus, we visit the Ataturk Mausoleum, the Ankara Castle with a walk through the oldest living area of Ankara, visit the Presidential Complex and Grand National Assembly Building. Dinner and overnight in Ankara. (B,D)

Oct 2 Thu Departure to airport - Fly home from Ankara via Istanbul.



TOUR MAP

LAND ONLY

\$3,950 USD Per Person in Double Room

\$1,300 USD Single Room Supplement

This price is based on minimum 15 paying passengers

INCLUDING

- Istanbul - Kars one way flight domestic flight
- Meet and assist at international airport upon arrival and departure.
- Sightseeing as per the detailed itinerary
- 2 nights Istanbul **Kent Hotel** or similar
- 1 Night at **Sim-Er Hotel in Kars** or similar
- 1 Night at **Sim-Er Hotel in Dogubeyazit** or similar
- 1 Night at **DoubleeTree Hilton Hotel in Van** or similar
- 2 Nights at **Anemon Hotel in Mardin** or similar
- 1 Night at **Nevali Hotel in Sanliurfa** or similar
- 1 Night at **Ramada by Wyndham Adiyaman** or similar
- 1 night at **Tugcan Hotel Gaziantep** or similar
- 1 Night at **Museum Hotel Antakya** or similar
- 1 night **Seyhan Hotel Adana** or similar
- 2 nights at **Barcelo Hotel Cappadocia** or similar
- 2 nights Ankara **Radison Blu Hotel Ankara** or similar
- Daily breakfasts
- 16 dinners
- Entrance fees to all archaeological sites included in the program.
- English Speaking licensed tour guide throughout the itinerary.
- Transfers & transportation by private A/C bus.
- Portage for one piece of luggage at the hotels.
- Service charges and local taxes
- **3** lectures from local experts, subjects location and dates TBD

EXCLUDING

- **International airfare to Istanbul and return from Ankara**
- Lunches and drinks
- Personal expenses, any other item which is not included above.
- Tips to tour guide and driver and hotel staff. (\$7-10 per person per day)

PAYMENT PROCEDURE

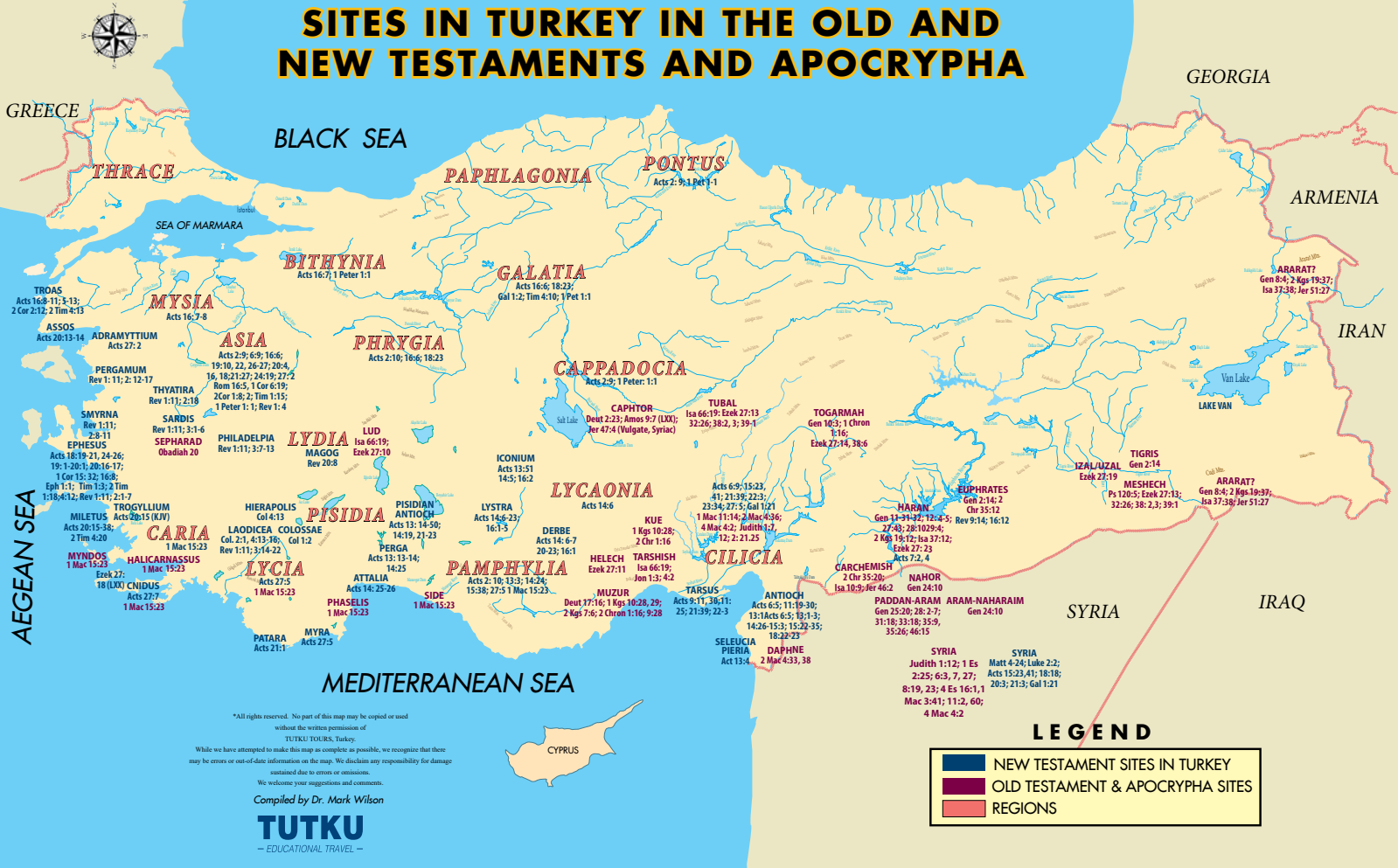
- **DEPOSIT : \$500 USD per person - March 31, 2025**
- **FULL BALANCE PAYMENT : July 1, 2025**

Land Only Cancellation Policy:

- Cancellations made before 60 days of departure: Full refund
- Cancellations made within 45 days of departure: 90% refund
- Cancellations made within 30 days of departure: 75% refund
- Cancellations made within 15 days of departure: 50% refund
- Cancellations made within 7 days of departure: 25% refund
- Cancellations made within 6 days of departure: No refund

In addition to the above cancellation policy, we charge a 5% processing fee for all refunds, no matter the date of cancellation. This fee is necessary to cover the costs associated with processing refunds, including bank fees and administrative expenses. We understand that sometimes travel plans change, and we appreciate your understanding of this policy.

SITES IN TURKEY IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS AND APOCRYPHA



*All rights reserved. No part of this map may be copied or used without the written permission of TUTKU TOURS, Turkey. While we have attempted to make this map as complete as possible, we recognize that there may be errors or out-of-date information on the map. We disclaim any responsibility for damage sustained due to errors or omissions. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Compiled by Dr. Mark Wilson

TUTKU
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LEGEND

- NEW TESTAMENT SITES IN TURKEY
- OLD TESTAMENT & APOCRYPHA SITES
- REGIONS



REGISTRATION

You can fill in the secure form at TUTKU website

REGISTER NOW

<https://tutku.travel/tour/DAPEASTTR25>

OPTION 1

OPTION 2



1. Open the Camera app on your device.
2. Move the QR code into the frame.

OPTION 3

*Please email to info@tutkutours.com and ask for TUTKU' bank account details if you wish to pay with bank wire transfer.



Charles Nienkirchen, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Ambrose University

He is retired Professor Emeritus of Christian History and Spirituality at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and served for many years as Visiting Professor of Christian Spirituality at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

In 1998, Dr. Nienkirchen received The Distinguished Alumnus Award from Tyndale College in Toronto, Canada and in 2006 he was honoured with an Award of Distinction for the Internationalization of the Teaching and Learning Practice given by the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education for the creation of the Down Ancient Paths Travel study program in 2000. In his retirement, Dr. Nienkirchen continues to direct the Down Ancient Paths travel program, in partnership with Tutku Educational Travel based in Izmir, Turkey.

Throughout his life, Dr. Nienkirchen's passion for personal and professional travelling has remained undaunted. His academic career has exuded a rich international flavour, inspiring his students to think 'globally' and travel intentionally. He has been a Scholar in Residence at Oxford University in Oxford, England; Tantar Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, Israel; and Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary in Madurai, South India. Additionally, he has taught courses on selected and underappreciated aspects of Christian spirituality at numerous seminaries and graduate schools identified with various Christian traditions across Canada, the United States, and Russia. As well, he has given lectures in Mexico, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Turkey, and Israel.

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